

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-05 IGA-02 AID-05 EB-07 L-03 COME-00

OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 ARAE-00 /041 W

----- 117535

P R 122120Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1701

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EAID HA

IN

SUBJ: P.L. 480 TITLE I

REF: (A) STATE 028143; (B) STATE 047534; (C) PORT AU PRINCE 0602

DEPARTMENT ALSO PASS AGRICULTURE; SANTO DOMINGO FOR AGATT

1. THE EMBASSY AND THE GOH CONCLUDED NEGOTIATION ON THE FY 76 PL 480 TITLE I AGREEMENT ON MARCH 11. GOH ACCEPTS THE TEXT OF THE AGREEMENT AS TRANSMITTED REF A AND AMENDED BY REF B. IN ADDITION, THE EMBASSY HAS NEGOTIATED A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING TO BE ANNEXED TO AGREEMENT, TEXT OF WHICH IS AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE. THE GOVERNMENT OF HAITI AGREES THAT WITH REGARD TO PL480 TITLE I COMMODITIES FINANCED BEGINNING WITH THE UNITED STATES FISCAL YEAR 1976, AN AMOUNT OF FUNDS EQUIVALENT TO THE DISTRIBUTION COMMISSION COLLECTED BY THE REGIE DU TABAC ON THESE PL480 TITLE I COMMODITIES SHALL BE PLACED IN A SPECIAL ACCOUNT IN THE NATIONAL BANK OF THE REPUBLIC OF HAITI, AND THAT SUCH FUNDS SHALL BE USED FOR THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PURPOSES OUTLINED IN THE AGREEMENT SIGNED (MARCH 19, 1976). UNQTE.

2. THE EMBASSY WANTED TO INCLUDE A PROVISION IN THE MEMORANDUM CONCERNING VERIFICATION AND REPORTING DISBURSEMENTS FROM THE SPECIAL ACCOUNT. HOWEVER, THE HAITIAN NEGOTIATING TEAM, HEADED BY THE FOREIGN SECRETARY AND INCLUDING THE SECRETARIES OF AGRICULTURE,
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CULTURE, FINANCE, PUBLIC WORKS, COMMERCE AND THE DIRECTOR OF

NATIONAL BANK OBJECTED STRONGLY ON THE BASIS THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF HAITI, FOR REASONS OF SOVEREIGNTY, WOULD NOT BE WILLING TO MAKE PUBLIC COMMITMENTS TO ANOTHER GOVERNMENT AS TO HOW IT WOULD REPORT ON THE USE OF TAX FUNDS. A COMPROMISE WAS ACHIEVED AFTER THREE HOURS OF NEGOTIATION. GOH ASSURED THE AMBASSADOR THAT THE DEPT OF FINANCE WILL PROVIDE THE NEEDED ACCOUNTING OF DISBURSEMENTS WHEN REQUESTED BY THE EMBASSY AS A ROUTINE MATTER OF BUSINESS. THE AMBASSADOR PARRIED NUMEROUS GOH ATTEMPTS TO BROADEN THE SCOPE OF THE SPECIAL ACCOUNT WITH "SOCIAL USES" CLAUSES.

3. THIS IS THE FIRST SUCCESS IN A LONG TERM EFFORT TO CRACK THE REGIE'S WALL OF SECRECY. SINCE THE EFFORT TO REDUCE THE REGIE EXTRABUDGETARY STATUS IS A MAJOR OBJECTIVE, IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO RECEIVE PROMPT AUTHORIZATION TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT, FRIDAY, MARCH 19.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: THE EMBASSY REQUESTS THE DEPARTMENT'S AUTHORIZATION TO SIGN THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT WITH THE ANNEXED MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON FRIDAY, MARCH 19. AT THE SAME TIME, PLEASE PROVIDE AUTHORIZATION TO AMEND THE SUPPLY PERIOD IN COMMODITY TABLE, PART II, DRAFT AGREEMENT TO NLT SEPTEMBER 30, 1976, AS REQUESTED REF C.
ISHAM

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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